

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSCE-00

VO-01 SCA-01 L-01 EB-03 SP-02 /039 R

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TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, CVIS, CPAS, CH, US

SUBJECT: USG REPRESENTATION AT SPRING 1975 CANTON FAIR

REFS: A) PEKING 652

B) STATE 71661

1. FOLLOWING UP ON REF A, EA/PRCM DIRECTOR ARMSTRONG CALLED PRCLO (HSIEH CH'I-MEI) ON APRIL 10 TO INQUIRE ABOUT STATUS OF HALLFORD AND MAERKLE VISAS. HSIEH, IN OBVIOUSLY PREPARED STATEMENT, SAID "WE CANNOT AGREE TO THE OFFICIALS OF THE HONG KONG CONGEN COMING TO CANTON OFFICIALLY AND TAKING PART IN THE CANTON FAIR." WHEN ARMSTRONG ASKED FOR A REASON, HSIEH DECLINED TO GIVE ONE, BUT OFFERED TO READ THE STATEMENT AGAIN. ARMSTRONG INDICATED THAT WE REGRETTED THE DECISION, AND HOPED THAT HSIEH WOULD PASS ON

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OUR REGRETS. HE ADDED THAT FOR THE REASONS DISCUSSED

DURING THEIR PREVIOUS MEETING (MARCH 28), WE FELT IT WAS IN PRC INTEREST AS WELL AS OUR OWN FOR CONGEN OFFICERS TO ATTEND FAIR. ARMSTRONG ADDED THAT HE WOULD REPORT THE PRC DECISION APPROPRIATELY IN THE USG.

2. IN VIEW OF THE FIRMNESS AND FORMALITY OF HSIEH'S RESPONSE, AS WELL AS THE FACT THAT WE FULLY EXPLAINED OUR POSITION IN MARCH 28 MEETING WITH HSIEH, WE SEE LITTLE

TO BE GAINED BY PRESSING THE MATTER FURTHER. THEREFORE, WE REGRETFULLY CONCLUDE THAT USLO WILL AGAIN HAVE TO BEAR THE FULL BURDEN OF FAIR COVERAGE THIS TIME. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE FAIRS, MEETING DELEGATIONS, VISAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE082735
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PTLINCOLN,JR.:EBS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750126-0883
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750458/aaaacbef.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 75 PEKING 652
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <10 Jun 2003 by MorefiRH, INA>; RELEASED <24 JUN 2003 by MorefiRH>; APPROVED <24 JUN 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: USG REPRESENTATION AT SPRING 1975 CANTON FAIR
TAGS: ETRD, CVIS, CPAS, CH, US, HK, (HALLFORD, SCOTT S), (MAERKLE, FREDERIC W),
To: HONG KONG PEKING
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006